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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/888,222	06/22/2001	Samuel Yin Lun Pun	P-2177	7524

7590 10/03/2006

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EXAMINER

ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/888,222

Applicant(s)

PUN ET AL.

Examiner

Angela A. Armstrong

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/21/06.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1-24, 27, and 29-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama et al (US Patent No. 4,531,119) in view of Krueger et al (US Patent No. 5,999,950) and Grover (US Patent No. 5,818,437).
3. Regarding claim 1, Nakayama discloses a method for generating Japanese text in response to signals generated by a user (col. 1, line 63 to col. 2, line 5) comprising; determining that one or more predicted words include any syllable of each of the one or more sets of syllables (col. 2, lines 51-62); presenting the one or more predicted words to the user for selection (col. 2, lines 51-62).

Nakayama fails to specifically teach that the signals generated by the user specifies one or more phonetic symbol categories each of which includes one or more syllables and at least one of which includes two or more syllables.

Krueger discloses a Japanese text input method using a keyboard with only base kana characters, wherein the first selection of a character key causes the display of the character in base kana form. A second consecutive selection of the same key causes the display of the character in a first variant form. Subsequent consecutive selections of the character cause the display of the character in further variant forms (Table 5). Krueger specifically teaches (col. 6, lines 20-32) the invention allows the entry of Japanese text with a smaller array of keys and without the need to move the cursor to modifier keys in order to enter characters derived from

the base set. Krueger further teaches that the reduced set of keys produces a more easily readable keyboard, especially if the keyboard is a virtual or on-screen keyboard displayed on a display device, and that the keyboard arrangement also reduces the total number key presses since variations of a certain base kana character are accessible through subsequent entries of the that same key rather than through the selection of an additional separate key.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Nakayama to provide for a Japanese text input method using a reduced set of keys, as suggested by Krueger, for the purpose of producing a more easily readable keyboard displayed on a display device.

Nakayama fails to specifically teach one or more of predicted words or phrases include at least one syllable beyond the one or more syllables of the phonetic symbol categories specified by the signals generated by the user. However, anticipating and providing complete words/phrases to a user after the user has entered a small number of keystrokes to alleviate the user having to type in the complete word was well known in the art. Grover discloses a reduced keyboard system, which performs a “look ahead” function so as to anticipate and provide the user with predicted words after the user has typed less than all the letters of a desired word (col. 12, lines 1-9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Nakayama to implement a look ahead function so as to anticipate and provide the user with predicted words after the user has typed less than all the letters of a desired word, as suggested by Grover, for the purpose of saving the user time in having to type the all the letters of frequently used or key vocabulary words.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Nakayama, Krueger, and Grover discloses the one or more collections are each associated with a respective consonant (col. 3, lines 4-10).

Regarding claim 3, the combination of Nakayama, Krueger, and Grover discloses a vowel one of the one or more collections is associated with a null consonant (col. 3, line 4-10).

Regarding claims 4 and 29, the combination of Nakayama, Krueger, and Grover discloses one or more collections correspond to a fifty sounds table (col. 2, line 51 to col. 3, line 64).

Regarding claims 5-6, the combination of Nakayama, Krueger, and Grover discloses the signals generated by the user specify each of the one or more collections in response to a corresponding single key press (col. 2, line 51 to col. 3, line 64).

Regarding claims 7-8 and 30-32, the combination of Nakayama, Krueger, and Grover discloses determining the kanji representation of each of the one or more predicted words and presenting the one or more predicted words comprises presenting the kanji representation of each of the one or more predicted words (col. 2, lines 51-62).

Regarding claim 27, the combination of Nakayama, Krueger, and Grover discloses implementation on a computer (figure 1).

Regarding claims 9-16, 17-24, and 33-40; the claims are similar in scope and content to claims 1-8 and 29-32 rejected above, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

4. Claims 25-26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama in view of Krueger and Grover and further in view of Ho et al (US Patent No. 6,307,541).

Regarding claims 25-26 and 28, neither Nakayama, Grover, nor Krueger disclose the system for generating Japanese text is implemented via a wireless telephone or text messaging device. Ho discloses a method and system for inputting characters through virtual keyboards from a mobile phone (Figures 2-6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Nakayama for implementation in a wireless phone or text messaging device, as suggested by Ho, for the purpose of providing inputting of Japanese characters at a high speed in a convenient and efficient manner to mobile and wireless users.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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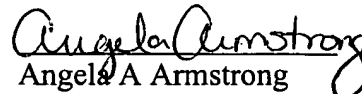
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 571-272-7598.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 11:30-8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Angela A. Armstrong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626

AAA
October 2, 2006